

**CROSS SYSTEMS YOUTH TASK FORCE REPORT OF THE CHAIR  
TO  
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING THE STATUS OF CHILDREN IN INDIANA  
March 11, 2014**

**ORGANIZATION:**

The Task Force co-chairs held an organizational meeting on January 30, 2014 attended by Angela Reid-Brown, Michael Commons and Kathleen Rusher. General operating principles were adopted and a list of proposed Task Force members was developed. The following individuals have accepted appointment:

Representing Juvenile Probation:

Nichole Hall

Representing the Department of Child Services:

Tiffany Stewart

Representing the Department of Corrections:

Chris Blessinger

Representing Schools and Education:

Superintendent Bruce Carter

Representing IARCCA:

Cathy Graham

Representing the Public Defenders:

Dan Schroeder

Representing Prosecutors:

Michelle Woodward

Representing Department Mental Health:

Rebecca Buhner

Representing CASA:

Suzanne Draper

Representing Indiana Criminal

Justice Institute / Youth Law Team:

Mary Allen

Representing Indiana Judicial Center:

Jeff Bercovitz

Representing Law Enforcement

Commander James Waters

Representing Indiana State Bar Association:

JauNae Hanger

Representing the Juvenile Courts:

Hon. Steve Galvin

Assist. Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Kathy Rusher

Representing JTAC:

Mary DePrez

Ex Officio Member:

Hon. Heather Mollo, Chair, CWIC

Staff: Angela Reid-Brown and Michael Commons

**MISSION:**

**The Task Force shall identify and examine the areas of cooperation and the barriers to the provision of services for children, youth, and their families who, owing to their circumstances, require assistance, supervision, or rehabilitative services from more than one governmental system. Children affected by multiple systems are of two types broadly defined as “cross systems youth” and “dually adjudicated or cross over youth”. The completed study will include recommendations to the Commission for statutory, regulatory, and practice reforms.**

**AREAS OF REVIEW:**

Two general areas have been identified as being within the purview and responsibility of the Task Force:

- a. **Cross Systems Youth** – Defined: Children or older youth (including 18 -19 year olds) who are neither identified nor adjudicated as delinquent or CHINS *but* who present with issues that require multiple system assistance or care. Youth in this area may include those who are 18-19 years old.

*Issue for Task Force: Understanding the areas of collaboration and the barriers to the coordination of services and responses for children needing assistance of or who are impacted by actions across systems. This would include, for example, children in schools who may have mental health needs that do not require DCS or Probation intervention. This area may also include homeless youth.*

- b. **Dual Jurisdiction (or Cross-over Youth)** – Researchers have subtle variations in the definitions of dual jurisdiction. In general, Dual Jurisdiction or Crossover Youth are children who are involved in the delinquency system and/or the child welfare systems. They can be identified as:

- i. *Dually Identified*: Currently involved in either DCS or Delinquency and have a history with the other;
- ii. *Dually Involved*: Concurrent involvement (receiving services) of a child in DCS and Delinquency but not necessarily adjudicated in each area.
- iii. *Dually Adjudicated* – concurrent adjudication in each system

*Issue for Task Force: development of pilot operations and pilot sites to address issues related to Dual Jurisdiction Youth.*

## PROCESS

The Task Force will review national research, local practices, and consider national best practice models regarding the two areas within its mission. In addition to the review of each system's practices as it relates to *Cross Systems* and *Dual Jurisdiction Youth*, the Task Force will seek public input from interested persons, agencies, and groups. More specifically the Task Force will:

### 1. *RE: Cross System Youth*

- a. Identify by common definition Indiana's *Cross System Youth*;
- b. Compile national research on cross systems youth;
- c. Collect data with regard to:
  - i. The total number of cross systems youth;
  - ii. The agencies impacted or involved;
  - iii. The most frequent origination site;
  - iv. Race, ethnicity, and demographics of the cross systems youth;
  - v. Number having past CHINS or delinquency histories;
- d. Identify barriers to cross system collaboration including cross system communication issue;
- e. Identify best national and local practices;
- f. Identify areas of service provision and whether the incorporation of restorative justice and family engagement practices including Family Group Decision Making practices is appropriate; and
- g. Report on recommended reforms.

### 2. *RE: Dual Jurisdiction / Cross Over Youth:*

- a. Identify best practices from national research for the development of three pilots;
- b. Identify and review successful local de facto practices in the development of the pilot processes;
- c. Establish three pilots (one each in a large, medium, and small county) for the development and evaluation of cross-over / dual jurisdiction practices and procedures.
- d. Monitor the pilot projects;
- e. Collect data with regard to:
  - i. Indiana's number of dual jurisdiction children;
  - ii. Percentage entering through CHINS or through delinquency;
  - iii. Age of children having dual jurisdiction issues;
  - iv. Race, ethnicity, and demographics of the cross systems youth;
  - v. Recidivism;
- f. Identify areas of service provision and whether the incorporation of restorative justice and family engagement practices including Family Group Decision Making practices is appropriate; and
- g. Report on information gleaned from the pilots and make recommendation for system reforms.